

I am deeply upset by Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. It is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get their political perspective shaped by what they feel is in the company's best interests. They are less concerned about what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. There are also substantive documentaries that are not so blatantly political that cover both candidates and are helpful for people making up their mind.

They say they have invited Kerry to the show - without knowing the format or interviewer, etc. To go into this situation is to be put on the defensive entirely with very little possibility of critical and open dialogue.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.